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IDENTICAL LETTERS DATED 3 FEBRUARY 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you that violations of Iraq's airspace by United States and British aircraft based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey continued between 24 and 31 January 2000 and that the aircraft in question engaged in acts of aggression, reconnaissance activities and acts of provocation, as set forth in the annex hereto.

You are requested to intervene with the United States, the United Kingdom and the countries that provide the facilities for these acts of aggression, namely Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey, with a view to bringing a halt to actions that, as flagrant violations of the Charter of the United Nations and of international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

These actions are continuing to bring death and injury to hundreds of civilians and to cause serious damage to private and public property. The logistic support that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey provide to the United States and British forces makes them key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they share international responsibility for the consequences of these actions. The Government of the Republic of Iraq affirms its right to seek lawful compensation for the damage being inflicted on its people by these same actions.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Violations by United States and British aircraft and damage caused, 24-31 January 2000

1. In the northern region 54 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1120 hours on 24 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out eight missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Aqrah, Dohuk, Baibo, Amadiyah and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1140 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1132 hours on 25 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 10 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Aqrah, Dohuk, Dukan, Amadiyah and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1335 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1118 hours on 30 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 20 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Aqrah, Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Ayn Zalah and Tall Afar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1350 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1050 hours on 31 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Zakho, Aqrah, Dohuk, Mosul, Amadiyah, Ayn Zalah, Tall Afar, Rawanduz and Irbil areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1415 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 166 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1940 hours on 24 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 30 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 12 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an EC-2 command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Artawi, Ushbayiah, Amarah

Diwaniyah, Qal'at Sukkar and Nukhayib South areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 2100 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1454 hours on 25 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 56 missions, 30 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 26 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an EC-2 command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Nasiriyah, Basrah, Najaf, Shinafiyah, Artawi, Busayyah, Salman, Nukhayib and Samawah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1705 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 0850 hours on 27 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, F-18, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 54 missions, 34 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 20 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an EC-2 command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Ushbayjah, Lasaf, Basrah, Qurnah, Samawah, Amarah, Qal'at Sukkar, Nasiriyah, Salman, Jalibah, Shatrah, Taqtaqanah South and Nukhayib South areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1010 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 0645 hours on 29 January 2000 United States and British F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 12 missions from Saudi territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and overflew the Ushbayjah, Lasaf, Nukhayib and Ar'ar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0815 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 0705 hours on 30 January 2000 United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 14 missions from Saudi territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and overflew the Ushbayjah, Lasaf, Nukhayib, Ar'ar and Salman areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 0930 hours, drove them off.